

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SY-02 SP-02 PM-03

INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 NSAE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NEA-07 EUR-08 H-01 /051 W

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O 122135Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5300

AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CJUSMMAT ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USDAO ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 8877

LIMDIS

BONN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, CASC (MORGAN, ERNEST R.)

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF COL MORGAN

1. COLONEL MORGAN WAS INTERROGATED BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES
FROM 1915 LOCAL TO 2150 LOCAL. INTERROGATION REVEALED THAT
COLONEL MORGAN HAD BEEN WELL TREATED THROUGHOUT ENTIRE DETENTION,
THAT HE SIGNED NOTHING EXCEPT A RECEIPT FOR HIS PERSONAL
BELONGINGS AND THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY
OF THE GROUP WHICH HELD HIM. HE BELIEVES THE REVOLUTIONARY
SOCIALIST ACTION ORGANIZATION WAS INVENTED TO CONCEAL
THE TRUE AFFILIATION OF HIS CAPTORS. HE WAS MOVED
TWICE DURING HIS DETENTION. WHEN LEBANESE AUTHORITIES

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ASKED IF HE WOULD PREFER CHARGES AGAINST HIS KIDNAP-

PERS, HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO SEEK THE GUIDANCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. COLONEL MORGAN INFORMED THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES THAT BECAUSE OF A THREAT TO HIS FAMILY WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS SERIOUS THAT HE WOULD WITHHOLD CERTAIN INFORMATION TEMPORARILY BUT THAT HE WOULD REVEAL IT LATER TO US AUTHORITIES.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO INTERVIEW BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, COLONEL MORGAN REVEALED TO US OFFICERS THAT MUCH OF HIS TESTIMONY WAS IN FACT FABRICATED. HE IS NOW RELATING ACCURATE DETAILS IN PRESENCE OF US AUTHORITIES ONLY. HIS STATEMENTS ARE BEING TAPE RECORDED WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE AND WILL BE FORWARDED VIA ESCORT. REGARDING ABOVE MENTIONED THREAT TO COLONEL MORGAN'S FAMILY IN ANKARA, MORGAN REVEALED PRIVATELY TO ARMA THAT HIS CAPTORS HAD ACCURATELY DESCRIBED HIS QUARTERS IN ANKARA AND THREATENED HIS FAMILY WITH RETALIATION IN THE EVENT THAT ANY OF HIS CAPTORS WERE PICKED UP WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME.

3. FOR ANKARA: IN VIEW POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF PFLP AND WIDESPREAD CONNECTIONS OF PFLP WITH EXTREMIST GROUPS IN TURKEY AND ELSEWHERE, WE BELIEVE PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO SAFEGUARD MORGAN FAMILY.

4. ALTHOUGH TAPE RECORDING OF MORGAN'S INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE AUTHORITIES IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT TAKEN, INTERVIEW WAS RECORDED BY STENOGRAPHER IN ARABIC AND MORGAN SIGNED COPY.

5. PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAM BY DR. ASPER OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COMPLETED AT 2315 LOCAL JULY 12. ASPER SAYS COLONEL MORGAN IN REMARKABLY GOOD HEALTH AND HAS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS. HE SEEMS VERY CALM AND PLACID. IN MORNING, HOSPITAL WILL PERFORM LAB TESTS TO CONFIRM IMPRESSION THAT HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH.
GODLEY

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